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Vol. 20, No. 21/April 24, 1998

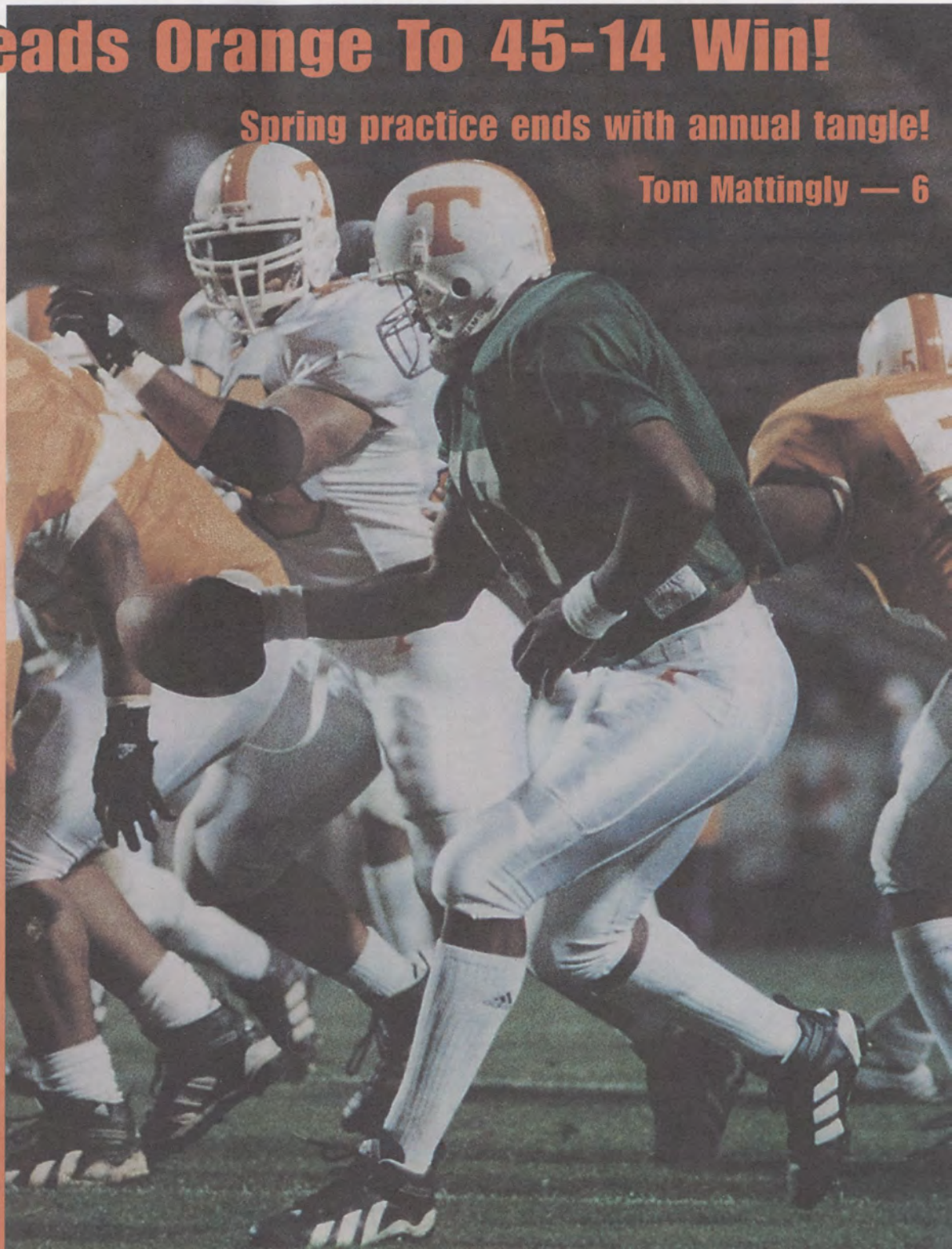
Smokey Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Martin Leads Orange To 45-14 Win!

Spring practice ends with annual tangle!

Tom Mattingly — 6



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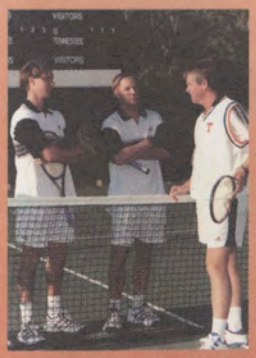
4 SOLID AT THE PLATE!
—ROB HARDIN



12 TENNIS VOLS IN SEC TOURNAMENT
—VOLUNTEERS MAGAZINE STAFF

VOLS FINISH 11th AT INTERCOLLEGIATE

Tennessee fired a final round 304 on the final day of the Billy Hitchcock Intercollegiate, in Opelika, Ala., to finish 11th. The 304 was five strokes better than their second score, but it was not enough to bring the Vols up the leaderboard as Georgia claimed the team title.

The Vols opened the tournament firing an opening round of 300 at the par 72, 6,689-yard course at Saugahatchee Country Club.

The Vols were led by freshman Matt McWilliams who was in a tie for 14th after the first day with a first round total of 73. Phanthep Somsamart shot a 74 while fellow freshman Kariem Baraka fired a 76. Junior Kevin Law shot a 77 and sophomore Derrick Centers opened with a first round 79.

Day two saw the Vols drop from seventh to 10th as the shot a 309, falling 51 strokes behind the Bulldogs.

McWilliams continued to lead the Vols as he shot a second round 78, followed by Somsamart (77), Law (75), Baraka (79) and Centers (80).

Tennessee's final round of 304 was an improvement as Somsamart shot a final round of 74 to finish tied for 29th. McWilliams fell to 40th-t, while Law finished in 47th-t, Baraka finished at 52nd-t, and Centers firing his best round of 76 finished 54th.

The Vols were scheduled to compete in the SEC Championships at the University of Georgia Golf Course, a par 72, 6,780-yards, in Athens, Ga., Apr. 17-19.

ROUNDBALLERS CELEBRATE SEASON AT BANQUET

The 1997-98 Tennessee basketball squad held their annual awards banquet on Apr. 4, at the Downtown Radisson Hotel. Brandon Wharton and C.J. Black shared the team's Most Valuable Player Award. Wharton, who just completed his junior campaign, led the Vols in scoring last season with a 15.2 points per game average. Black, a junior-to-be next season, was the team's top rebounder (6.8/game) and set a school record for blocked shots in a season with 73.

The banquet topped off head coach Jerry Green's first season at Tennessee after he led the Vols to a 20-9 record and their first NCAA Tournament appearance since 1989. Last month Green was named as the SEC's Co-Coach of the Year by the Associated Press along with Kentucky's Tubby Smith.

1997-98 Vol Basketball Awards

Most Valuable Player- Brandon Wharton and C.J. Black
Lowell Blanchard Award (Most Improved Player)- Rashard Lee
Burchfield-Moss Most Courageous Award- Aaron Green
Best Defensive Player- Torrey Harris
Most Assists- Tony Harris (4.2/game)
Chairman of the Boards (Top Rebounder)- C.J. Black
Free Throw Shooting Award- C.J. Black (.741)
Team Before Self (Best Team Player)- Anthony Sewell
All-SEC Freshman Team- Tony Harris and Isiah Victor
Senior Awards- DaShay Jones and Anthony Sewell

DIAMOND VOLS SWEPT BY ALABAMA

The Vol baseball team traveled to Tuscaloosa, Ala., to take on the Crimson Tide over Easter Weekend, and dropped all three games to the Tide.

The Vols were coming off of two consecutive wins in middle Tennessee as the Vols had beaten Tennessee Tech 12-4 and then Middle Tennessee State 15-5, before moving onto Tuscaloosa.

In game one the Vol pitching staff held the game close, but it was the Vol bats that hurt Tennessee as they failed to move runners in scoring position, falling in game one 4-2. Luke hudson (4-2) took the loss going eight innings, giving up six hits and four runs, all earned, while striking out 10.

In game two, the Crimson Tide jumped on the Vol pitching staff early and lead 16-5 after six innings. The Vols did manage a rally but fell short in losing 16-12. Kurt Scott (4-4) took the loss giving up six runs on six hits, striking out three. With four homers, the Vols set the school record with 80.

Game three saw the Vols allow the Tide to get out to an early lead which Tennessee never recovered from, losing 9-6. Jeff Pickler extended his hitting streak to 19 games in the loss. Justin Ross (3-2) took the loss, allowing six runs on four hits.

The Vols played only one game versus Arkansas in a rain-shortened weekend, losing 11-8.

The Vols are now 26-15, 7-12 SEC.

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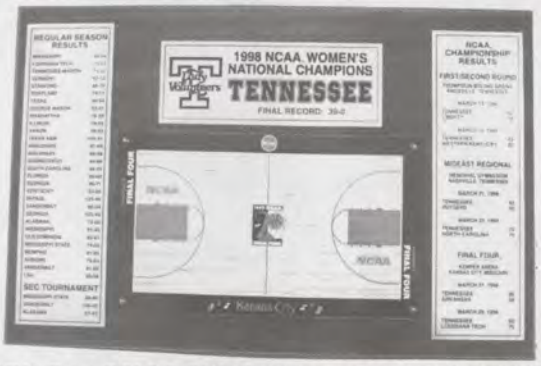

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From the Editor

RECOGNITION OF THE 1998 EAST TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL FOOTBALL FOUNDATION AND COLLEGE HALL OF FAME AWARDEES

This past weekend at The Foundry on the World's Fair Site, thirty-one individuals were recognized for their contributions to their communities and to football.

This year's General Robert R. Neyland Trophy went to Lou Holtz, who becomes the 33rd recipient of the prestigious award.

The General Robert R. Neyland Trophy is given annually by Knoxville Quarterback Club to an outstanding man who has contributed greatly to intercollegiate athletics. The first presentation came in 1967, as Nathan W. Dougherty (Tenn.) and Herman Hickman (Yale) were awarded the trophy. Last year's winner was former UCLA head coach Terry Donahue.

Local broadcasting icon, Jim Dick, of Dick Broadcasting, was presented with the "Distinguished American Award," given annually to a man who has "carried the lessons learned on the football field to a life of service in the community." Dick currently owns and operates eight local AM and FM radio stations.

This year three individuals were awarded the "Amateur Football Award," given to an individual who has contributed greatly to local amateur football.

This year's recipients were W.C. (Bill) Battle, DDS, Bob (Bobby) Lippert, and Eddy Powers.

Dr. Battle spent over 40 years officiating football and served three years as president of the Knoxville Football Officials Association. He has been in the dentistry practice for 39 years.

Lippert is a long-time assigning officer for the T.S.S.A.A., and has also officiated football, baseball and basketball. He is now an Event Manager for the Knoxville Sports Corporation.

Powers is a former Vol, having played on the 1975-77 Tennessee football squads. Powers is now an SEC football official, having joined the SEC in 1989 after spending three years in the Ohio Valley Conference and one year at the Old Dominion Athletic Conference.

Six East Tennessee residents were chosen for the 1998 "George L. Hunter Distinguished Community Service Award," given annually in honor of the Chapter's founding president, George L. Hunter.

Community Service Award winners are chosen by local coaches, officials, and civic leaders to individuals who have contributed to amateur football in their communities.

This year's recipients are: J. Cliff Davis; Bob Graham; Bruce Lawson; Harold Liles; Teresa Mascaro and Jonathan Pride.

Congratulations to all the award winners and thank you for your contributions to your communities and to amateur athletics.

FIRST PEYTON MANNING SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

This month the University of Tennessee announced the establishment of the Peyton Manning Scholarship to honor Peyton's accomplishments here at UT on and off the field. Proceeds from the Orange and White game are going to the Peyton Manning Scholarship.

Manning and his family were on the field to present the first Peyton Manning Scholarship to Jay Steven Burns of Bulls Gap. Burns is an honors graduate of Greeneville High School. He has a 4.27 GPA, scored a 35 on his ACT and is the No. 1 graduate out of 197 in his graduating class. He is the son of Steve and Glennis Burns. Congratulations to Jay Steven Burns on being awarded the first Peyton Manning Scholarship.

Editor's Note: Due to the rising cost of printing and mailing, the athletic department has increased the cost of Smokey's Tale to $34.97, effective June 1. We will be sending out renewals giving people a chance to renew at the current $29.97 price before the change takes effect.

Need more info on Tennessee athletics, check out the web site at: www.utsports.com

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Solid At The Plate - Jeff Pickler!

When compiling a list of attributes of a productive hitter, quick hands, hard work, lower body strength, being a student of the game and good vision are ones that come immediately to mind.

When describing Tennessee second baseman Jeff Pickler, those same qualities come to mind as well. Being a productive hitter is just what Pickler has been this season for the Vols.

He is sporting a .468 batting average heading into the week of April 20th. This number leads the Southeastern Conference and ranks fifth nationally. This is up from his batting average of a year ago when he hit .332.

The increase is due to his improved lower body strength, which, in turn, has improved the rest of this game.

"Improved lower-half body strength has been a big thing for me this season," Pickler said. "From the time I went home at the first of June until December, I was constantly working my legs.

"Everything starts from the ground up in baseball. Your defense and your hitting start with your legs. So the stronger your legs are, the better off you are going to be."

The improved leg strength has made him more stable at the plate. This, in turn, has enabled him to limit his head movement.

"When your feet and your weight are not moving, your eyes are not moving," he said. "If you can stay solid with your feet, the ball is not moving. That is going to help you see the ball better."

So, during the off season, Pickler went to work to improve his hitting.

"Quiet feet and being a more balanced hitter is what I worked on after last season," he said. "I jumped to the ball a little last year and did not trust my hands.

"I realized I have quick hands, and I trust them now. I do not try to cheat as much to get in front, because I have quick hands.

"I am staying more balanced and not trying to get out in front of the ball too much. I was trying to transfer too much weight and keep my front foot down early. I am using my lower half better."

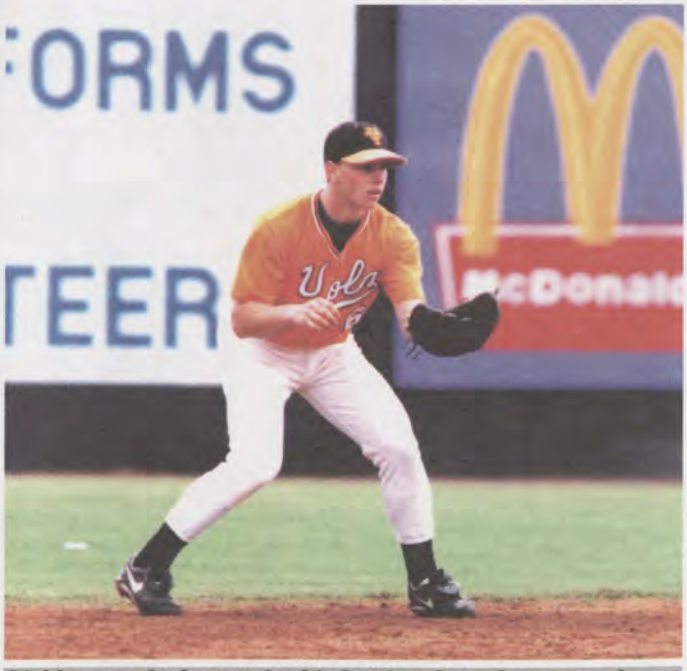
Along with an outstanding season at the plate, Pickler is putting together a solid season in the field. He has a .991 fielding percentage this season, and has the Tennessee career record for assists.

After a weekend series with Arkansas, Pickler has recorded 477 assists during his time as a Vol.

Playing second base requires 100 percent concentration at all times during the game. This is something Pickler likes about his position.

"I like the mental demands of playing second base and would not have it any other way," he said. "I want to be in control, and, if you are a control freak, it is good to be a second baseman. You are constantly in the game, and you can take charge of the infield. I am not much of a quick feet, quick arm, strong arm guy so second base suits me well."

Not only is Pickle adept at hitting and fielding, he meets all the



Pickler may be known for his batting, but what many do not know is that he has worked equally as hard with his fielding, committing only three errors this season.

requirements for a student athlete. He was a third-team GTE Academic All-America last season, as well as being a GTE Academic All-District IV performer.

"It comes down to discipline in every aspect of your life," he said. "I do not know how you can put discipline in your life and strive to do well in one aspect of your life and then slack off in another. I just do not think that is possible. It is your personality. If you are going to strive to do well in baseball, you are going to strive do well in the classroom. They go hand-in-hand."

Pickler is a student of the game of baseball, just like he is a student in the classroom. He gives credit to his father, who is a hitting instructor, for that.

"Being the son of a hitting instructor and a coach has helped," he said. "It has been a constant drill of hitting and hitting. I am a big-time student of the game. Come talk to me about hitting, and I will give you theories until your are blue in the face. I enjoy hitting.

"I came from a junior college program where all we did was hit, hit, hit. We just tried to outscore all of our opponents."

Pickler's arrival at UT came via Cypress College in California. He was a teammate of former Vol Augie Ojeda there. He earned All-America honors in 1995 and set a school record with six hits in one game. He only played one season at Cypress, then made his move to Knoxville.

"I could have waited another year, but I was ready to get out of the junior college scene and get to a big-time school and enjoy every thing that goes with it," he said. "I love the football and basketball games and everything that comes with Tennessee."

One thing that he loves as well is playing in the SEC, and the competition the conference offers. He said it makes him better playing tougher teams, and he focuses better in those games.

"It is tough to play in the SEC, because you never have a week off," Pickler said. "In some conferences, the teams have a weak opponent and can kind of take the week off. We do not have that. Week in and week out, we have a battle. Every weekend is a big weekend."

Pickler appreciates the lore and history baseball has to offer.

"I love baseball, and it is the best," he said. "Baseball is a beautiful game. You do not have a time clock, and you play outdoors. There is no doubt, I would not have it any other way. I am a big basketball fan, but baseball is my game.

"No matter what I do, I get to play this game tomorrow and that is pretty sweet."

No time clock also means, some down time in the dugout and in the field which allows for more communication among the players.

"Being able to talk helps a little and it can help more if you have guys that do not carry their at-bat into the dugout," Pickler said. "We have a good group of guys. We pick each other up when we are down and when you have a bad day. It is important to stay on an even keel. We talk about that. You can start a game 0-for-3, but you have to battle back and have two good at bats."

—Rob Hardin

"It comes down to discipline in every aspect of your life. I do not know how you can put discipline in your life and strive to do well in one aspect of your life and then slack off in another. I just do not think that is possible. It is your personality. If you are going to strive to do well in baseball, you are going to strive do well in the classroom. They go hand-in-hand."

—Second Baseman Jeff Pickler

From the Gridiron...
O&W Game Ends Spring Drills!

Spring practice 1998-style ended April 18 with the annual Orange & White game and, while the team score is perhaps not historically important, the performances of several Vols are, especially the key faces for the 1998 season.

Quarterback Tee Martin, the heir apparent at that critical position, took up where he left off in the waning moments of the Orange Bowl and had an impressive outing. Martin completed nine of 14 passes for 180 yards and two scores, one a neatly-thrown 36-yarder to Cedrick Wilson, the sophomore wide receiver who always seems to be able to make the tough catch.

Martin also threw a 13-yard TD strike to the ever-dependable Peerless Price. Martin had an apparent TD pass called back, as an ever-vigilant official detected Tee touched by an onrushing defender.

Jamal Lewis played sparingly, but enough to rack up 33 yards on six carries. Rookies Travis Stephens, Travis Henry and Dominique Stevenson sparkled in their first spring game appearances. Frostproof, Fla., native Henry had 17 carries for 114 yards in action for both squads, while Stephens, the native of Clarksville had six carries for 113 yards, including a run of 73 yards and a pass reception for a TD of 94 yards from true frosh Joey Mathews. Stevenson had 15 carries for 67 yards and a 3-yard TD run. So, it was a good night for the Vol runners.

For his part, Price caught five balls for 96 yards and walk-on Gavin Kralik from Sumner, Wash., had four for 64.

David Leaverton, considered to be the leader in the punting derby, had five kicks for an average of 45.6 with a long boot of 54.

Chris Ramseur had a banner night defensively with five hits, two fumble recoveries for scores (coming within seconds of each other and covering 30 and 32 yards) and an interception return of 12 yards. Fellow linebacker Andre James had an interception and TD return of 65 yards.

Sophomore Cedrick Wilson had two receptions for 62 yards, capped off by a 36-yard touchdown reception from quarterback Tee Martin. (File photo)

The Orange team jumped to a 45-0 lead in the first half, with 21 in the first and 24 more in the second. It all started with Martin's 36-yard TD pass to C. Wilson and Ramseur's two fumble recoveries for scores (they looked like mirror images of each other and the casual observer might have thought they were seeing an instant replay.)

Jeff Hall had a 30-yard field goal and James had his TD run with an oskie down the left sidelines going northward. Stephens added a 7-yard run and Price had his 13-yard TD reception to account for 45 points.

The White team countered in the second half with a 3-yard run by Stevenson and an innocent-looking pass to Stephens that turned into a 94-yard scoring play. Jeff Hall, Robert Loudermilk and Bennie Mosely converted all extra points.

Defensively, Roger Alexander, considered a likely impact player in the fall, had two lost-yardage tackles for minus-14 and recovered a fumble. He wears No. 38 and you'll want to get a good look at him when you see the Vols next fall. Darwin Walker had two lost yardage tackles for -12.

Just for perspective, the following Vols missed the game and nearly all of them are counted on when the Vols line up against Syracuse on Sept. 5. The list included running back Phillip Crosby (knee), offensive tackle Chad Clifton (shoulder), defensive back

Gerald Griffin (shoulder), linebacker Eric Westmoreland (knee), defensive tackle Jeff Coleman (shoulder), defensive tackle Kenny Smith (shoulder), defensive end Shaun Ellis (hip), linebacker Shawn Johnson (knee), wide receiver Jermaine Kent (brother of former Vol Joey, finger), offensive guard Toby Champion (knee), defensive tackle Ron Green (knee), defensive tackle Billy Ratliff (knee), offensive guard Spencer Riley (tricep), and holder Benson Scott (shoulder). Wide receiver Jeremaine Copeland missed because of academics.

Defensive backs Steve Johnson and Tyrone Graham were excused for track.

Defensive back Mikki Allen received the Andy Spiva Award as the Most Improved Defensive Player, while running back Will Bartholomew was given the Harvey Robinson Award as the Most Improved Offensive Player.

In related news, the Indianapolis Colts made quarterback Peyton Manning the No. 1 overall pick in the 1998 NFL Draft. Manning becomes the second Vol to be the top selection in the draft joining George Cafego (Chicago Cardinals 1940). Also going in the first round of the draft was defensive back Terry Fair, who was selected by the Detroit Lions with the No. 20 pick. Wide receiver Marcus then became the third Vol to go in the first round when the Denver Broncos took him with the 30th selection.

This was the second time that Tennessee has had three players taken in the first round. Charles McRae, Antone Davis and Alvin Harper were all selected in the first round in 1991.

The third round of the draft saw two more former Vols get selected. Linebacker Leonard Little was chosen by the St. Louis Rams with the 65th overall pick, and defensive end Jonathan Brown was taken with the No. 90 pick by the Green Bay Packers.

Day No. 2 of the draft brought good news for three more members of last year's SEC Championship team. Safety Cory Gaines was picked in the seventh round Indianapolis and center Trey Teague went in the seventh round to Denver. Wide receiver Andy McCullough was also a seventh round selection by the New Orleans Saints.

Defensive tackle Buck Buxton signed a free-agent contract with the New York Jets and fellow lineman Bill Duff did likewise with the San Francisco 49ers.

In other weekend action, the Vol linksters finished fourth at the SEC Championships held at the University of Golf Club.

Tennessee carded rounds of 297 and 282 for a total of 579. The tournament was limited to only two rounds due to rain. The fourth place finish was the Vols best SEC Championship finish since a second place showing in 1994. This was also the first top 10 finish of the year in any tournament for the Vols.

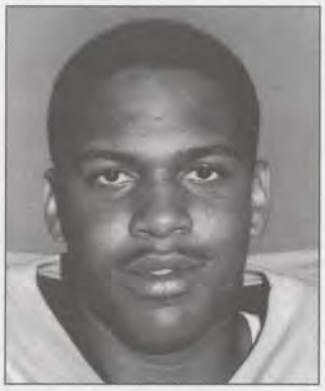
They posted their best round of the season with their six-under-par, 282 total, in the second round.

Host Georgia won their 22nd SEC golf championship with its 567, nine-under par total.

Individually, Derrick Centers and Kevin Law finished tied for 11th with a 143 total. They each fired their best round of the season in the second round. Centers recorded a career-best 67, and Law also added a career-best 69.

South Carolina's Eric Ecker took individual honors with a 136, eight-under par effort. He shot the tournament's low round of 66 in second-day action. Simon Lacey of Florida was second at 139, five-under par.

—Tom Mattingly



Tee Martin (left) completed 10-of-16 passes for 180 yards and two scores for the Orange squad, and Chris Ramseur (right) returned two fumbles for scores for the Orange squad as well.

Tennessee Statistics Orange vs. White

Team Statistics	OR	WH
First Downs	15	17
Rushing	6	13
Passing	7	3
Penalty	2	1
Rushing Attempts	29	39
Yards Gained	171	188
Yards Lost	39	25
Net Yards Rushing	132	163
Net Yards Passing	184	179
Passes Attempted	16	16
Passes Completed	10	8
Had Intercepted	0	3
Total Offensive Plays	44	55
Total Net Yards	316	342
Average Gain	7.18	6.22
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	4-2
Penalties No-Yards	2-20	4-42
Punts-Average	4-42.5	3-45.0
Punt Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns-Yards	0-0	0-0
Int. Returns-Yards	3-77	0-0
Fumble Returns-Yards	2-62	1-0
Time of Possession	N/A	N/A
Third Down Conversions	4-9	6-10
Fourth Down Conversions	0-0	0-1
Sacks By-Yards	2-16	6-38

ORANGE	**0**	**0**	**0**	**14**	**— 14**
WHITE	**21**	**24**	**0**	**0**	**— 45**

1-O: Wilson, pass from T. Martin 36. Hall kick.
Drive: 70 yards, 5 plays, 2:05 possession, 2:23 on clock.
1-O: Ramseur, fumble return 30. Hall kick.
Drive: 2:15 on clock.
1-O: Ramseur, fumble return 32. Hall kick.
Drive: 1:32 on clock.
2-O: Hall, field goal 30.
Drive: 64 yards, 5 plays, 1:11 possession, 11:28 on clock.
2-O: James, interception return 65. Hall kick.
Drive: 10:11 on clock.
2-O: Stephens, run 7. Hall kick.
Drive: 56 yards, 8 plays, 2:51 possession, 4:51 on clock.
2-O: Price, pass from T. Martin 13. Hall kick.
Drive: 80 yards, 4 plays, :31 possession, :24 on clock.
4-W: Stevenson, run 3. Loudermilk kick.
Drive: 60 yards, 6 plays, 3:33 possession, 7:25 on clock.
4-W: Stephens, pass from Mathews 94. Mosley kick.
Drive: 94 yards, 1 play, :16 possession. 2:20 on clock.

Rushing	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Lewis	6	33	0	33	0	16
Stephens	6	103	0	103	1	73
Stevenson	15	67	2	65	1	14
Henry	17	114	0	114	0	21
Bartholomew		3	11	0	11	0 6
Bryson	1	3	0	3	0	3
Biggers	2	4	3	1	0	3
Starks	1	0	0	0	0	0
Masilak	1	3	0	3	0	3

Passing	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
T. Martin	14	9	0	180	2	36
Veazey	8	5	2	70	0	40
Matthews	8	3	1	109	1	94
Plemmons	1	1	0	4	0	4
Windle	1	0	0	0	0	0

Receiving	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Price	5	96	1	34
Bryson	1	8	0	8
Taylor	1	4	0	4
Peebles	1	14	0	14
Henry	1	5	0	5
C. Wilson	2	62	1	36
Stephens	1	94	1	94
Stevenson	1	6	0	6
Kralik	4	64	0	40
Harris	1	10	0	10

Punting	No.	Yards.	Avg.	Long
Leaverton	5	228	45.6	54
Frogg	1	42	42.0	42
Hurst	1	35	35.0	35

Field Goals	Att.	Made	Long
Hall	1	1	30

All Returns	Punts No.	Yds.	LP	Kickoffs No.	Yds	LP	Int. No.	Yds.	LP
Ramseur							1	12	12
James							1	65	65
Sewell							1	0	0

Fulmer File...

1998 Orange and White Game

It has been an absolutely great weekend for the Volunteers. Starting with the lunch for John Ward, the lettermen's outing, my press conference, the Hall of Fame luncheon and the game itself.

A lot of our signees were here. It was good to see them wanting to be a part of the activities. Probably the biggest thing that happened was the halftime ceremonies with Peyton. The establishment of the scholarship, the signing of the jersey and the presentation of the SEC Championships rings all made for a great halftime.

The game was good because we did not get anybody hurt real seriously. Tee Martin handled the offensive well and made good decisions in the ball game. Some good things happened for us in the running game as some players made some plays. They were taking the simple plays and on several occasions making really nice runs out of them. That means that the linemen must have been doing good things as well.

Peerless Price looked to me to be as sharp as he has been since the injury this time last year. It was great to see him making plays and making some things happen. We will definitely need that in the fall. Cedrick Wilson made some plays to keep a drive alive. He then made a good catch for the touchdown.

Defensively, it was hard a little bit, because of the number of people we have out. We really do not know what we are going to look like defensively this fall.

We need do a great job of rehabbing, getting stronger and getting everybody in the flow of this football team. We need everybody pulling together and rowing the boat together. If we do this, we have a chance to have a good team.

Jeff Hall has had a fabulous spring and did a good job tonight. It was good to see David Leaverton punt in a number of situations and a did a good job for the most part.

Travis Stephens made some plays and made the long run early. He made a nice cut and outran the defense. He can break the angles of the defense really well because he is nifty fast. It was good to see him take the flair pass the distance. If you can get some touchdowns that way during the course of the year, it really helps.

I felt like all the running backs ran hard and good had leverage. They were falling forward and got the tough hard yards. They made some cuts but got headed back up field to make positive yardage.

Peyton just keeps making statements about how he feels about this university, the staff and the football team. I thought every bit of the ceremony was really special. The most special thing to me was at the end when he turned to the football team and they came to him. That makes a great statement about the good things of college football.

Chris Ramseur did a good job of scooping up two fumbles. He is coached real well because he did exactly what he is told to do in that in situation. He bent at the knees to get the ball and then ran to the sidelines. He picked up a couple of blockers and made it into the endzone. That is kind of a double edge sword for me, because I am not too happy to see those the balls on the ground. We need him to make those kind of plays, because our depth at linebacker is not what it needs to be.

It was good to see the tipped ball and the heads up play by the defense. But I would rather see the defense make more plays and not have things given to them. Those kind of things are not likely to happen during the season.

The players we have now have been like the little brothers with all the great leaders we have had the last couple of years. It is now time for this team to establish its own personality and what it wants it to be like. It is not the kind of thing that happens in the football office and practice field. It is what you do in the classroom and off the field that will make you a leader. It is how you help the young player adjust, and things of that nature that make you a leader.

I am anxious to see them step up. A lot of players have the potential and the ability to become leaders. Some of those people have to be more vocal and handle the tough situations that come up everyday.

Tee has set a goal to help us win. He does not have to make all the plays, but can use the players around him.

—Phillip Fulmer

> ***"The players we have now have been like the little brothers with all the great leaders we have had the last couple of years. It is now time for this team to establish its own personality and what it wants it to be like. It is not the kind of thing that happens in the football office and practice field. It is what you do in the classroom and off the field that will make you a leader. It is how you help the young player adjust, and things of that nature that make you a leader."***
>
> ***—Head Coach Phillip Fulmer***

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Tennessee Tradition...

BEN BYRD ON THE VOLS...

QB'S MEETING THE CHALLENGE!

Tee Martin came out of Spring Practice solidly entrenched as Tennessee's starting quarterback, and with the enormous shadow of Peyton Manning still hovering over Neyland Stadium, the public reaction is rather predictable. He has big shoes to fill.

There's nothing new about that. Since the Vols scrapped their trademark single-wing offense 34 years ago, most of the "T" quarterbacks who have won the No. 1 job have had big shoes to fill. And in almost every case, they have met the challenge.

Martin's distinguished predecessor himself had to follow the trail left by some pretty deep cleat marks. After upper classmen Jerry Colquitt and Todd Helton both were sidelined in the early season of 1994, freshman Manning was cast into the heat of battle, thus becoming the longterm successor to one of the best and most popular Vol football players of all time. Heath Shuler had chosen to turn pro after his junior season of 1993, following a brilliant career that had won him All-America honors and (sound familiar?) a runner-up finish in the Heisman Trophy balloting.

Shuler left as UT's third most prolific all-time passer despite foregoing his senior season and having thrown only four passes in his freshman season of 1991. The Vols' No. 1 career passer, until Manning ousted him, was the man who kept Shuler on the bench in Heath's freshman year, Andy Kelly. Kelly did not win a lot of all-star awards but he connected on more than 60 percent of his passes and amassed 6397 aerial yards during a career that saw him lead Tennessee to a 29-5-2 record during his three years as starting QB, 1989-90-91.

Kelly, in his younger days, also had big shoes to fill. his predecessor, Jeff Francis, likewise held down the starting job for three seasons (1986-87-88). The tall fellow from Mt. Prospect, Ill., connected on 62 percent of his attempts and piled up more than 5800 yards to rank third on the school books behind Manning and Kelly.

Francis had to fill two pair of shoes when it came his turn to lead the Vol offense. Tony Robinson, as physicaliy gifted as perhaps any Vol "T" quarterback, ran the attack brilliantly in 1984 and again in '85 until going down in the Alabama game with a torn knee ligament. Daryl Dickey, a redshirt senior who appeared destined to be a career backup, came off the bench and led John Majors' troops the rest of the way unbeaten, and won the Sugar bowl MVP honors in that smashing upset win over Miami.

Before Robinson there was Alan Cockrell, a gutsy battler who bounced back from his freshman year knee surgery to trigger a Tennessee resurgence in 1982 and '83. It was Cockrell who guided the Vols to that rollicking 35-28 victory over Alabama in '82 that ended the Tide's 11-game win streak at UT's expense.

The quarterback situation in the late 1970s was somewhat unstable, although Jimmy Streater would probably be remembered as a star if his supporting cast had been up to normal Tennessee standards. Streater, a nifty runner as well as passer, ranks sixth on the all-time passing list with almost 3500 yards during his 1976-79 career.

Until Martin faces the task of replacing Manning, Randy Wallace (1975-76) could be considered the Vol QB with the biggest shoes to fill. Wallace was a good triple-threat option QB on teams that were somewhat shy in overall talent, and he suffered in comparison to the man he succeeded. Condredge Holloway (1972-73-74) was easily the most exciting player ever to hold down the Vol QB job. The little man from Alabama was such an accomplished escape artist that opponents prayed that he would throw the ball rather than put it down and run with it. Although he played in an era of more restrained offenses, Condredge still ranks as the Vols' 10th most productive passer and sixth in total offense.

The star QBs of the early T-formation years at UT most always had big shoes to fill. Bobby Scott (1969-70) succeeded Bubba Wyche (1968) who in turn succeeded the inimitable Dewey Warren (1965-66-67). There weren't many passes thrown in those years as now, and their stats don't quite match those of their counterparts of the '80s and '90s, but Warren, Wyche and Scott would have been winners in any era. The tradition of standout Vol quarterbacks goes back to them.

Former Vol

Steve Gilliam (1968-72)

Steve Gilliam was a four-year letter winner (1968, '69, '70 and '72) during his year's at the University of Tennessee.

Gilliam earned All-America honors in 1970 as part of the 400 medley relay team. That same 400 medley relay squad also won were SEC Champions from 1969-71. Also during that time Gilliam was part of a Tennessee swimming and diving team that won two SEC team championships (1969 and 1972), and had a combined record of 56-2 in dual meet competition.

Gilliam's Vol squad also placed in four NCAA Championships (32nd in 1969, 9th in 1970, 6th in 1971 and 3rd in 1972).

Gilliam still has close ties to the University as both of his sons, as Michael (freshman) and oldest son Craig (senior) swim for the Vols.

He and his wife Sally reside in Nashville, and attend nearly all of the Vols home meets.

Steven Gilliam (kneeling left) was part of the 400 medley relay team that earned All-America honors in 1970.

Sea Ray Relays Results...

On the last day of competition in the 32nd Annual Sea Ray Relays, Tennessee's men's track and field program ended its events on a successful note with several top times and marks.

The majority of the day's events took place on the track as the relays were the main portion of Saturday's schedule. There, the first event including Vol runners was the distance medley relay. Josh Mears, Dawane Wallace, Chris Hendrix-Buxton and Doug Ellington finished in third place with a time of 9:49.64 which marks the first time a DMR crew has posted a time for the Vols in 1998.

In the 400 meter relay, Tennessee's Justin Devine, Jason Waters, Tyrone Graham and Russell Frye placed second with a time of 40.71 which stands as the top 400 meter relay finish for a Vol team this season. Hendrix-Buxton, Mears, Adrian Wheatley and John Dickson also competed in the 3200 meter relay where they finished in a time of 7:46.93 for the Vols.

The final two running events of the day for Vols came in the 6000 meter relay and 1600 meter relay. In the 6000 meters, Tennessee's Bob Dickie, Chris Brown, Brian Wallace and Joe Dickson posted a time of 16:11.96. Then in the 1600 meters, the Vols finished an impressive fourth with Russell Frye, Dawane Wallace, Steve Johnson and Shane Begnaud running the race in 3:09.76. Their final also stands as the top time in the event by a Vol crew in the event during the1998 outdoor season.

In the field events, Tennessee's Wes Boudreau and Darwin Walker participated in the shot put with each posting marks of 53-11 3/4 and 53-4 1/4, respectively with Boudreau improving the previous season-best mark he set at the Raleigh Relays in March.

In the long jump, Tennessee's Geno Devane improved his previous season-best mark with a leap of 23-5 1/2. His best mark before the Sea Rays came in the Raleigh Relays where he jumped 22-8.

The pole vault proved to be a battle of Tennessee pasts. Former Vol Tim Mack tied a personal-best mark in the event when he jumped an impressive 18-6 1/2, while former teammate, former Vol and Olympian Lawrence Johnson finished second with a jump of 17-9 1/4.

In the javelin, Chris Morland continued his winning ways as he won his third consecutive javelin title in his three 1998 meets with a throw of 220-7. Teammate Phil Carter also posted a successful mark of 194-11 in the event.

On Friday, the men's hammer throw invite concluded late in the evening. Tennessee's Wes Boudreau placed a high third with a throw of 214-4.

Among the participants in the decathlon were three athletes from Tennessee's men's track and field program. Pat Buckheit, Tim Bell and Grant Cleghorn each posted top marks among the five first-day events to finish the day eighth with 3758 points, 11th with 3444 points and 12th with 620, respectively.

Yet, the top story from the Tennessee camp on Wednesday came as Bell, a freshman from Maryville, broke the previous world junior decathlon record in the high jump, the Tom Black Track decathlon record in the event, the Sea Ray decathlon record in the event and the collegiate decathlon record in the event with his provisional leap of 7-1 3/4 (2.18m). Buckheit posted his highest mark in the 100 meter dash with a fourth place finish and a time of 11.03.

Also breaking a Sea Ray decathlon record for the most points scored on the first day was Brandon Falconer of Kent State University with his 4245 points. The previous mark was held by former Vol Chad Smith who totaled 4205 points in the first day of a decathlon in 1996. Falconer, who leads the 1998 event, is followed by Phil McMullen from Western Michigan with 3975 points in second and Jon Parry of Mississippi with 3899 points in third.

Under less than perfect conditions, Tennessee's Pat Buckheit and Tim Bell wrapped up their decathlon events with finishes of fourth and eighth, respectively, while the Vols' Doug Ellington, Bob Dickie and Chris Brown raced to good finishes in the 5,000 meter run.

In the decathlon, Buckheit set the pace for the Vols as he improved four positions during the day after finishing eighth on Wednesday. Improving his season-best times and marks in six of the 10 decathlon events, the junior from Hamburg, N.Y., concluded the meet with 7397 points. He replaces his previous season-best mark of 7239 set at the College Station Relays in March. His point total and finishes of 14.72 in the 110 meter hurdles, 14-5 1/4 in the pole vault, 177-3 in the javelin and 138-9 in the discus made five personal-best marks as well for Buckheit on the day.

Bell placed eighth in the event as well with his 6386 total points. The freshman's mark also includes his world junior decathlon record in the high jump from Wednesday.

Winning the decathlon was Phil McMullen from Western Michigan who totaled 8008 points and set a Sea Ray Relays' collegiate decathlon record breaking the previous mark set by Chad Smith of Tennessee in 1996 with 7984 points. McMullen's total from the 1998 Sea Ray meet now places him as the overall collegiate leader in the decathlon for the 1998 outdoor season and gives him an automatic NCAA Division I qualifying mark. McMullen also set the Sea Ray collegiate decathlon second-day point total with 4033 points breaking the previous mark of 3994 set in 1995 by Ryan Werner of Liberty.

In the 5,000 meter run, former Vol and Olympian Todd Williams once again shined in his homecoming. Williams cruised to the win in a time of 13:56.78, while Tennessee's representatives Ellington finished in eighth with a time of 14:19.45, Brown with a time of 14:39.39 and Dickie in a time of 14:46.97.

Starting the day in proper fashion for the Vols was senior and team captain Bob Dickie who won the 3000 meter open steeplechase. The Grand Blanc, Mich., native ran to season-best time of 9:13.51 only missing his personal-best time by a mere 13 seconds. Another Vol in the competition was Joe Dickson who finished the race in 9:50.54 improving his previous season-best time in the event.

In the 110 meter hurdles, Tennessee's Rodney Thompson, from Chattanooga, ran to a time of 14.49 which marks the best time for a Vol in the event during the 1998 outdoor season. Tyrone Graham continued his string of successful times with his 10.71 in the 100 meter dash and a second-place finish. Also posting a high season-best mark was Justin Devine with his 10.86 in the event, while Jason Waters finished in 11.13.

Russell Frye continued to excel in the 200 meter dash as he finished second in the event during the day with a time of 21.00 marking the fastest time for a Vol athlete in the event in 1998. The 400 meter dash saw one Tennessee athlete compete when Justin Devine finished in eighth place with a time of 47.73 which also leads all Vols thus far in the outdoor season.

In the 400 meter hurdles, Tennessee's Dawane Wallace finished in a time of 53.39, while teammate Adrian Wheatley finished in a time of 56.26. Josh Mears was the lone representative in the 800 meter run with his time of 1:54.45. In the final running event of the day, Tennessee's Chris Hendrix-Buxton and John Dickson ran times of 3:58..51 and 3:57.18, respectively in the 1500 meter run.

The field event portion of the day proved successful for the Vols as well with Scott Perkinson placing third in the open discus. He posted a provisional and season-best throw of 181-11, while teammate Lance Jauron threw a season-best mark of 169-10.

—Chad King

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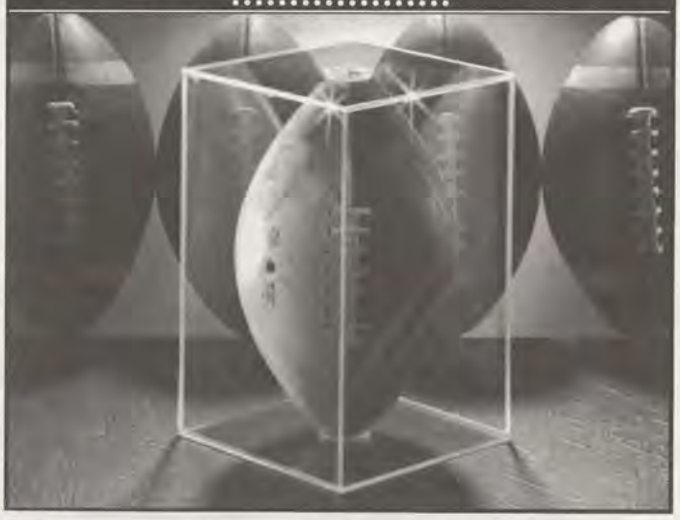

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THIS WEEK IN BIG ORANGE COUNTRY

TENNIS VOLS WIN FIRST, DROP SECOND IN SEC TOURNEY

The Vol tennis team opened up this year's SEC Tournament better than they did last year's, as the Vols opened up tournament play with a 4-2 win over Arkansas, but dropped the second round 4-1 to Ole Miss.

In round one, the Vols needed two days to dispatch the Razorbacks as rain postponed the completion of the first round between fifth-seeded Tennessee and 12th-seed Arkansas.

The Vols struggled in doubles play as the Razorbacks won the doubles point Thurs., April 16, before rain halted play. At doubles No. 1, Chad Copenhaver and Mark Way lost to Tim Crichton and Tom Hamilton 8-3. At No. 3 doubles, UT's Juan Gamboa and Mark Parsons lost to Darin Phelan and John Deaton 8-6 to give Arkansas the point, thus No. 3 doubles was not needed.

In singles action, the Vols came alive and responded. Mark Fitzpatrick got the Vols going with a 7-5, 6-4 win over Hamilton at No. 2 singles. The No. 1 position was not so lucky as Way lost to Crichton 5-7, 6-4, 6-4. No. 3 singles saw Parson defeat Oskar Johansson 3-6, 6-3, 7-6. With the win, Parson moved to 35-11 overall, 15-4 in the SEC, which ranks him tied for 10th in the Vol record book for most singles wins in a season.

At No. 5 singles, Copenhaver defeated Phelan 6-4, 6-4. At No. 6 singles, Gamboa upped his season record to 21-9, 10-3 in the SEC with a 6-7(3), 6-1, 6-1 win over Marc Serrilli. The No. 4 singles matched was suspended because the Vols had already claimed the win.

Up next for the Vols was the nation's fifth-ranked Ole Miss Rebels. In an attempt to make up time due to the rain delays, the doubles matches were not played unless necessary to decide a match. Ole Miss controlled singles action, as the Vols could only manage one win out of five positions.

At No. 2 singles, Fitzpatrick took his second win of the tournament by defeating Sebastien Lami 7-6, 6-3. That was as much as the Vols could muster as they dropped their remaining matches.

At No. 1 singles, Way lost to Sebastien DeChaunac 6-4, 6-4. No. 3 singles action saw Parsons drop a 6-2, 6-1 decision to Martin Sjoqvist. In No. 5 singles action, 32nd-ranked Anders Stenman defeated Copenhaver 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. And at No. 6 singles, Gamboa fell to James Shortall 6-4, 6-2. Before the loss, Gamboa had won 13 out of his last 14 matches. The No. 4 singles match between Paul Podbury and 50th-ranked Vikrant Chada was suspended after Ole Miss had clinched the match.

"I thought we were headed for a breakthrough with this match. I felt we were ready to beat one of the top five teams in the nation. We've been on the edge all season," head coach Michael Fancutt said. "Sometimes you really have to believe in yourself in order to win. I think some teams have that in their favor. Some teams play a close match and feel good because they've worked hard. Maybe that held us back a little."

The Vols return to action on May 5 for a match against Clemson in Clemson, S.C. The Vols will then await to hear from the NCAA as to their fate in a probable NCAA regional bid.

—Nathan Kirkham

Mark Parsons and the Vol tennis team are awaiting an NCAA regional bid.

LADY VOL BASKETBALL AWARDS

BEST REBOUNDER: *CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW* - Led the team with an average of 8.4 rebounds per game...Had the top mark in 22 games and snared double-digits 15 times...Turned in a season high of 13 boards twice...Single-season haul of 328 is the most ever by a junior...This year, she went over 1,000 for her career, becoming the third Lady Vol to do so.

LADY VOL TORCH AWARD FOR SCHOLASTIC AWARD: *BRYNAE LAXTON* - Won award for three consecutive years...Posted a cumulative grade-point average of 3.97...Exercise science major received a 4.0 gpa in each of the last six semesters...Recognized on the Academic All-SEC team and CoSIDA District IV team...In the postseason, twice chosen as the Chrysler Academic Achiever of the game, earning two $1,000 scholarships awarded to the University in her name.

HOLLY WARLICK BEST DEFENSIVE PLAYER AWARD: *SEMEKA RANDALL* - Nabbed 102 steals to obliterate the Lady Vol freshman single-season record...Set the seventh-highest mark in team history...Tenacious on-the-ball defense set in motion the vaunted Lady Vol press...Quickness and anticipation, helped her to become the team's designated stopper...Often drew the toughest defensive assignment.

Chamique Holdsclaw earned two team awards at the team's banquet last week.

MOST IMPROVED: *KRISTEN "ACE" CLEMENT* - Began her career on the bench with an injury...By the end of the season, she was the team's first guard off bench...The crafty passer posted 107 assists, the fifth-best mark ever by a UT freshman...Collected three or more assists in 19 games and double-digits in scoring five times...Averaged 5.6 points, 2.2 rebounds, 3.2 assists and 1.5 steals per game.

SIXTH PLAYER AWARD: *TERESA "TREE" GETER* - Played in all 39 games and collected nine starts...Led the SEC with 2.4 blocked shots per game...Had a season high of five four times...Set the school record for blocks in a season with 93...Sits fifth all-time in Lady Vol history...Finished the year with 6.3 points and 4.8 rebounds per game, and shot 54% from the field.

COACHES AWARD: *KELLIE JOLLY* - Only award chosen by the coaching staff, it is meant to exemplify a coach on the floor...Two-time award recipient...Her desire and determination have helped to lead UT as its steady-handed point guard...Has set aside personal achievements for the good of the team...For the second consecutive year, still received NCAA All-Final Four team accolades.

GLORIA RAY LEADERSHIP AWARD: *KELLIE JOLLY* - Scored in double figures 15 times, recorded over four assists in 19 games and produced an impressive 2:1 assists to turnover ratio...Hit on 84 percent of her free throws and 42 percent of her three-point attempts...Her calm and poised demeanor was a steadying influence en route to the team's third straight NCAA title.

UNSUNG HERO: *KYRA ELZY* - Campaign was cut short after sustaining an injury during the regular-season game against Alabama...Used her height, quickness and reach to smother opposing ball handlers...Started 18 games and averaged seven points and four rebounds...Recognized as one of the team's top perimeter defenders, she averaged 1.5 steals per game.

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: *TAMIKA CATCHINGS* - Second-team All-American...Broke team's rookie scoring record by averaging 18.2 ppg...Collected 8.0 rpg and led UT 10 times this season...Posted three of the top-10 single-game performances this season in five categories...Scored 35 points against DePaul...Top five in SEC in five categories...Received a bevy of awards, including the AP Rookie of the Year and NCAA All-Final Four team.

MOST VALUABLE PLAYER: *CHAMIQUE HOLDSCLAW* - Became the first Lady Vol to win both Wooden and Naismith Award...Led UT in 14 categories...Top five in SEC in five categories...Eighth nationally in scoring, averaging 23.4 ppg, while also posting 8.4 rpg...Scored in double-figures 38 times and collected 10 or more rebounds 15 times...First Lady Vol to eclipse the 2,000-point and 1,000-rebound mark...Three-time winner of team MVP award.

—Brad Laux

LADY VOLS

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1 Gear Navy printed T-shirt M-XXL $21

2 Lady Vols champs T-shirt (white or gray) M-XXL $17

3 Headlines T-shirt M-XXL $22

4 3-in-a-row Adult T-shirt M-XXL $22
Kids T-shirt M-L $17
Adult sweat shirt M-XXL $36

5 Adidas T-shirt (front and back print) M-XXL $22

6 Coffee mug $10

7 Ash National Champs shirt (front and back print)
Kids T-shirt M, L, XL $19
Adult sweat shirt M-XXL $31

8 3-in-a-row hat (white/orange or off white/denim) $21

13 Sipper mug $6.50

9 Orange long sleeve polar fleece jacket S-XXL $80

10 Orange wind shirt M-XXL $65

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1998 COCA-COLA BIG ORANGE CARAVAN...

TO KICK OFF APRIL 24 IN SEVIER COUNTY!

The ninth annual Coca-Cola Big Orange Caravan begins its 13-stop tour April 24 at Eagles Landing in Sevier County. The Caravan will criss-cross the state in late April and May and will also make stops in Atlanta and Birmingham.

"The Caravan is a great opportunity for Vol fans to meet Phillip Fulmer, Jerry Green and other staff members face-to-face, and get a snapshot or autograph," said UT Associate Athletic Director Mike Hamilton, coordinator of the event. "Our coaches always enjoy sharing their previews of the upcoming season with Vol fans across the state."

A day of golf with Fulmer, Green and other Vol coaches and staff members will begin in the early afternoon in most locations. A dinner or reception will follow, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Coca-Cola is the official sponsor of the 1998 Caravan.

Persons interested in participating in the golf tournaments should call the local contacts listed below. Those who would like to attend only the evening dinner/programs should call the UT Development Office (423) 974-3011 for more information.

The 1998 Coca-Cola Big Orange Caravan

Date	City	Location	Golf Contact/Phone
April 24	Sevierville	Eagles Landing 1 p.m.	Allen Newton (423)428-2212
April 27	Jackson	Hidden Valley CC 12 noon ***	John New (901)664-4435/422-4282
April 28	Memphis	Wyndyke CC 12 p.m.***	Jana Fuqua (901)372-3876
May 5	Cookeville	Cookeville CC 12 noon ***	Mike Phipps (931)526-5904
May 6	Morristown	Millstone CC 1 p.m.***	George McGuffin (423)587-5711
May 7	Cleveland	Cleveland CC 12 noon ***	Paul Bacon (423)336-5370
May 11	Clarksville	Clarksville CC 12 noon ***	Bill Hoy (931)522-4314
May 12	Nashville	Hermitage Golf Club 1:30 p.m.***	Terry Smith (615)244-2130
May 13	Franklin	The Legends Golf Club 1:30 p.m.***	Steve Kroeger (615)874-2288
May 14	Lewisburg	Saddle Creek Golf Club 1 p.m.	Joe Brandon (931)359-4897
May 18	Chattanooga	Signal Mountain CC 1 p.m.***	Claire Stone (423)974-1218
May 19	Atlanta	Towne Lake Hills Golf Club 12 noon	Allen Vaughn (770)516-8657
May 20	Birmingham	Chace Lake CC 1:30 p.m.***	Jim Sledge (205)942-9604

(All Times Local)

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NOTE TO MEDIA: UT coaches and staff will be available for interviews for 30 minutes beginning 1 1/2 hours prior to the scheduled tee time (10:30 - 11:00 a.m. for a noon tee time) and after the golf tournament from approximately 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. local time. For more information regarding advance publicity or media interview opportunities, contact Associate SID David Grim or Tom Mattingly at (423) 974-1212.

EDDY POWERS RECEIVES AWARD

Former Vol gridiron player Eddy Powers was honored at the East Tennessee Chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame Awards banquet held at The Foundry on the World's Fair Park on Saturday, Apr. 18.

Powers received one of three "Amateur Football Awards" given out at this year's ceremonies. Powers received the honor because of his work and involvement with amateur football in Tennessee.

Powers is currently an SEC football official, a position he has held since 1989 when he joined the SEC. Powers began his officiating career with the T.S.S.A.A. in 1981. In 1985 Powers went on to the Old Dominion Athletic Conference where he spent one season as an official before moving to the Ohio Valley Conference where he spent three seasons before joining the SEC.

Powers has been fortunate to have officiated in four postseason football games. His most recent memorable experience came as he worked this year's Rose Bowl game between Michigan and Washington State. Powers has also called in the 1997 Fiesta Bowl (Texas vs. Penn State), the 1995 SEC Championship game (Florida vs. Arkansas), and the 1993 Liberty Bowl (Louisville vs. Michigan State).

Powers graduated from Clarksville High School in 1974. He then came to the University of Tennessee, lettering in football from 1975-77. He graduated from The University with a bachelor's degree in Education. Powers and his wife Jayann have been married for eight years and have two sons.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOXES

The Lettermen's Club is preparing to send out letters to over 1180 members in preparation of filling vacancies on the Board.

The letters will ask you as Lettermen to nominate an individual who you think is qualified and deserves to serve on the Lettermen Board.

The letter should also give you information based on the by-laws about what qualifies a person to serve on the Board. Those having questions should call (423) 974-9054 for more information.

This is an important position as decisions about the direction of the Lettermen's Club and how best to serve both past and future members and the University are made by these members.

So look for those letters to arrive in your mailbox sometime in May.

OUR CONDOLENCES

We have received word that this past January Royal "Sharkey" Price, a member of the 1942, 46-47 football teams past away. Royal paired with guard Ray Drost in the single wing offense. The two were known as "The Gold Dust Twins."

Our thoughts go out to his family in his passing.

T CLUB

SENIORS HONORED

On Monday, Apr. 20, Vol and Lady Vol seniors who had completed their eligibility were honored by the T-Club in a ceremony held at The University Center on campus.

The ceremony featured former Vol Bill Johnson as the guest speaker. The student-athletes were congratulated on their work both in the classroom and on the playing fields. In 1996-97, the two programs combined for 83 Academic All-SEC Honor Roll selections. This past fall semester, there were 22 student-athletes with a 4.0 grade point average and 194 student-athletes with a cumulative grade point average above 3.0.

Over 100 athletes representing every sport were invited to attend the luncheon. This luncheon has served as a way for the T-Club to honor those who have given their service to The University.

GOLF TOURNAMENT TEES-OFF WEEKEND

Over 100 former Vol athletes attended the annual Lettermen's Weekend Golf Tournament held at Green Meadow Country Club.

Former Vol athletes mingled with each other, members of the local media and members of the Vol coaching staffs for a day of enjoyment and fellowship.

Prior to taking to the green's, the golfers were treated to a luncheon at the Club's restaurant.

Under mostly cloudy skies and cool temperatures, the players took to the course trying to win valuable prizes and have one up on bragging rights until this time next year when the tournament will come around again.

In our next issue you will find out who won what, and see some of those that attended this year's tournament. And, if you are a former Vol lettermen and missed this year's tournament, contact the T-Club at (423) 974-9054 to find out to be a part of the excitement of the Lettermen's Club.

—Donnell Field

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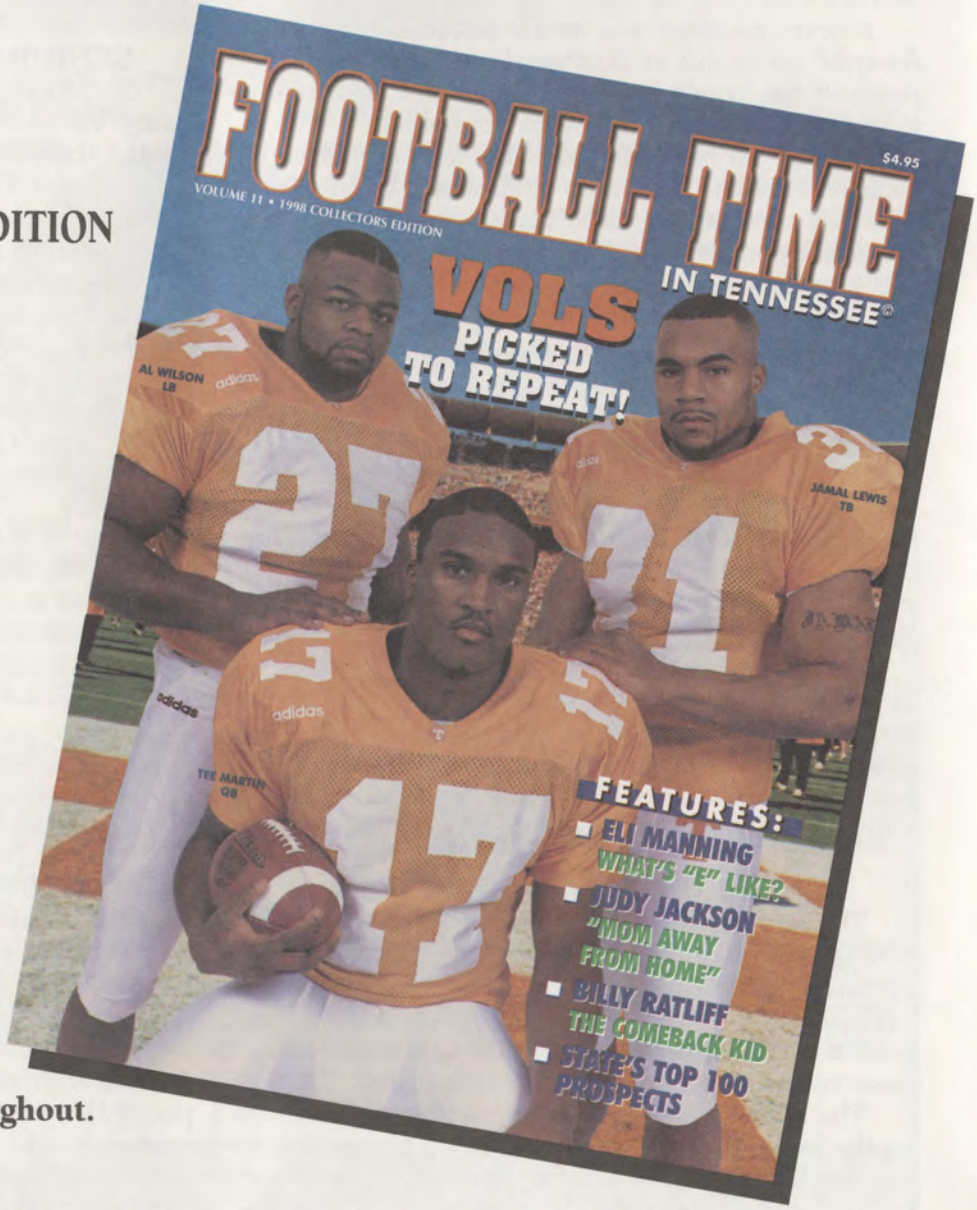

This year's magazine is 112 pages featuring the 1998 Vols, SEC information, Division 1-A football schedules, high school prospects, feature stories and beautiful four color photos throughout.

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Gridiron In Capable Hands...
POSITION-BY-POSITION AT A GLANCE!

Senior Peerless Price is a key returnee from last season's aerial assault. A healthy Price could pay dividends to an offense looking to keep opponents from stacking the line of scrimmage.

OFFENSE

New Quarterback and Seasoning of Nation's Top Freshman Runner Point to More Emphasis on Ground Game

TIGHT ENDS

The situation at tight end at first glance sounds ideal—bringing back the first-teamer and his two understudies from the previous season. But reality is a different animal. Tennessee in 1997 employed three wide receivers so much that junior tight end Eric Diogu should be considered a part-time returning starter at best. Eric's pass-catching statistics were non-existent, his name noticeably missing from the roster of 12 Vols who hauled in passes last season. But Diogu is an accomplished blocker who figures to earn increased playing time as the Vols depend more on their running attack. Antron Peebles moved over from defense last year and joined Diogu and Neil Johnson in forming a tight end trio. Redshirt freshman John Finlayson, who was given a look at center in early spring practice, was later switched to tight end.

WIDE RECEIVERS

Tennessee's pass-catching corps will have the usual assortment of returning veterans, but also more fresh faces than customary. For good reason, based on their contributions in the past, much is expected of Peerless Price and Jeremaine Copeland. Price, who stunned team doctors last year by returning swiftly from a severe leg injury, averaged about 15 yards a catch while pulling in 48 passes. Copeland had 10 more receptions, 58 in all, second only to the departed Marcus Nash, who had 76, but lagged a couple of yards behind Price for average distance. The coaching staff will look for depth from a group that includes promising redshirt freshman Eric Parker and two sophomores who lettered as true freshmen, Cedrick Wilson and David Martin. All three have potential to become double-digit receivers. Wilson can also be called on for kick returns. In summary, the pass-snagging brigade has the goods to upgrade the curriculum at what is fondly referred to as Wide Receiver U.

TACKLES

Chad Clifton is the established veteran in the offensive line, a man whose 21 starts over two years gives him an experience edge over any of his teammates. After a redshirt season Chad took over as a starter in 1996 and with the exception of one game has been in the starting lineup ever since. Bothered by a shoulder injury during the spring, he is counted on to return for fall duty and lead by example. At 6-6, 315, Chad is the perfect size for carrying out the duties at left tackle. He'll be backed by Josh Tucker, a 6-2, 295-pound sophomore. Cosey Coleman did something the record book says is a daunting task for a true freshman: Eight games into the season, he captured the starting assignment in the offensive line. Coleman played impressively enough the rest of the season to win a berth on the Freshman All-SEC. Jarvis Reado, experienced as a part-time starter, brings the total of proven performers at tackle to three following a salutary spring practice.

GUARDS

A couple of guards could find playing time at center, or vice versa, raising some questions about who will play precisely where at the inside line positions. Spencer Riley, an enthusiastic competitor who keeps

his teammates playing at a high level, is a junior who is counted on to bring his leadership qualities to bear. The 6-3, 295-pound left guard needs to stay free from the injuries that have bothered him occasionally and limited him in spring practice. In only two seasons in a job where repetition and experience are fundamental to success, Riley has chalked up 19 starting assignments. Over on the other side, Mercedes Hamilton is the probable starter. A one-time defensive player, Hamilton has made steady improvement since moving to offense. Toby Champion provides reserve strength, something that could also be affected if coaches shift personnel around.

CENTERS

Losing Trey Teague was a blow to the offense, costing the line not only a sure snapper but a strong and vocal leader. Diron Robinson moved from guard to become the probable starter, but how the Vols will compensate overall for the loss of the fiery Teague remains to be seen. Bernard Gooden was listed second team as spring practice drew to a close. But a note of caution: Others may be in for a look-see at the position that gets the plays started. Phillip Fulmer and his staff over a period of years have developed the art of switching players around within the offensive line. When it comes to deep snapping for the kicking game, there is no problem. Kevin Gregory will be handling that important chore for the second straight year.

QUARTERBACKS

As Tennessee fans fretted about the loss of Peyton Manning at the end of last season, nothing could have relieved their troubled minds better than what they saw down on the turf of Pro Player Stadium. Here came Tee Martin, Peyton's projected heir, directing the Vols downfield to a touchdown against Nebraska in the FedEx Orange Bowl. Eight plays. Eighty yards. Touchdown. The Martin-engineered scoring drive came in the final stages of the game and didn't save the cause that gloomy night. But the UT faithful were encouraged by Martin's combination of accurate passing and powerful running. The 6-3, 215-pound quarterback, despite scant statistics in two years as Manning's apprentice, has aroused high expectations for his junior season. Behind Martin, ready for the opportunity to lead the offense, are redshirt freshman Burney Veazey and newcomer Joey Mathews, who in January enrolled as a freshman barely out of high school.

TAILBACKS

Just when Tennessee needed to make a statement with its running game last fall, along came Jamal Lewis, riding to the rescue. Obviously gifted, but not quite ready to take over, Lewis struggled early in his true freshman season to find his niche. Once he found a level of comfort, Lewis became the most productive freshman running back Tennessee had ever sent onto the field. Beginning with a starting role against Georgia, when he ran for 232 yards, Lewis pounded Vol opponents mercilessly, winding up with 1364 yards, seven touchdowns and freshman-of-the-year honors in the Southeastern Conference. Now that Jamal's a sophomore, he has vowed to be an even better tailback than the first-year model, which was good enough to land All-America honors. A bevy of runners are arrayed behind him hoping to get the nod for backup duty. Travis Stephens, Travis Henry and Dominique Stevenson were heavily recruited backs coming out of high school a year ago.

FULLBACKS

A huge question mark that hung over the 1997 Vols was resolved early when Shawn Bryson developed into one of the most versatile fullbacks ever to wear the orange. Deadly blocker, powerful runner and sure pass-receiver—Bryson was all of those in an impressive 6-1, 220-pound package of football proficiency. Shawn's emergence as a total fullback was a big reason, according to Phillip Fulmer's analysis, for Tennessee's Southeastern Conference championship. Bryson returns for his senior season, ready to do his part to safeguard Tee Martin, spring Jamal Lewis and make some sparkling plays of his own. Fullback is well-manned, stocked with such prize performers as Phillip Crosby, back from the disabled list, and Will Bartholomew, who was turning heads in fall practice last year until an injury waylaid him and forced him into a redshirt season.

Senior Corey Terry has become the man to watch from the defensive end position as he replaces the departing Jonathan Brown.

DEFENSE

Injuries Have Left Unanswered Questions about Depth in Line; Dedicated Al Wilson Heads Linebacker Corps

ENDS

A question hovering over Tennessee's defense is whether the pass rush that has figured so prominently in UT's success will be maintained. There is nothing like the sight of a Leonard Little or a Jonathan Brown bearing down to unnerve a quarterback. With Little, who played mostly at linebacker last season, and Brown now beginning their pro careers, who can deliver a rush from the flanks? Corey Terry, a starter last year,

If Tennessee is to return to the SEC Championship game, this year's squad will have to step up to the challenge of replacing key position players.

brings credentials from a 56-tackle, 13-big-play season to the right side where all should be well. Four of Corey's memorable hits were in the form of quarterback sacks, proof he belongs in the pass-rushing company of Little and Brown. Over on the left side, the situation is unsettled. Shaun Ellis, projected as a starter after a promising sophomore season, was involved in a serious car wreck and missed spring practice. Jeff Coleman, who divides time between end and tackle, is a possibility, and DeAngelo Lloyd is considered a good prospect. Roger Alexander, a newcomer tabbed for linebacker duty, worked mainly at end in spring drills.

TACKLES

Without the physical problems that have developed over the last year, tackle could have been a showcase position, made up of players physically and temperamentally suited to deliver ferocious hits. Unfortunately, injuries have struck the defensive line, leaving coaches to wonder how things stand even after spring practice. Billy Ratliff, a big-time operative when he's healthy, hasn't experienced many injury-free moments in his Vol career and must await doctors' evaluations this summer to determine his status. Ron Green, a wily veteran, was bothered late in spring practice by a knee injury. Others, such as Fred Weary who was viewed as an impact performer a year ago, and Kenny Smith, slowed in spring practice by a shoulder injury, must be primed to go full blast when fall work begins. Darwin Walker, a junior who sets the standard in the weight room, made consistent progress last year and will be an important man up front.

LINEBACKERS

Al Wilson's knack for getting to the ball and making the open-field tackle earned him a transfer to the middle linebacker slot, a key position where Leonard Little displayed his All-America skills last year. Wilson could go on to similar laurels if he reels off the type numbers he did last year when he played left linebacker: 83 tackles and 16 big plays including five sacks and seven hits for lost yardage. An intense competitor and leader, Al expects his teammates to share his zest for the game. Eric Westmoreland, whose 1997 season was cut short after two games by a knee injury, took the lead at left linebacker in spring practice. Raynoch Thompson, a jarring tackler, returns at right linebacker, his standing boosted by first-year statistics such as 67 tackles and 12 big plays. Experienced reserves such as Shawn Johnson and Jerrod Hayden will compete for playing time with Roger Alexander, new at UT from junior college ranks, and Austin Kemp, whose playing time last season came mainly with special teams.

CORNERBACKS

In two seasons as a Vol, including one as a true freshman, Dwayne Goodrich has exhibited an uncanny knack for showing up with the football. He displayed the talent his first year when, appearing mainly in a mopup role, he was involved in an extraordinary number of turnovers. Then in 1997, he kept it up, gaining credit for 14 big plays, of which four were interceptions and two were fumble recoveries. It's obvious Dwayne intends to lead by example from his left cornerback position. Across the field from him at right cornerback the projected starter will be Steve Johnson, a steady senior who can give lessons to a group of youngsters fighting for playing time. There will likely be movement in the secondary from position to position, but tabbed to see action at cornerbacks in addition to Goodrich and Johnson could be Andre Lott, Tyrone Graham and Gerald Griffin.

STRONG SAFETIES

Fred White moves up on the depth chart to first team strong safety, designated to fill the big shoes previously occupied by Tori Noel. White is in his third season, having served capably last year as Noel's first substitute. But even in a reserve role, White made a distinct impression by capitalizing on his opportunities when they materialized. He ranked as the Vols' eighth most productive tackler with 43. His quickness helped him recover two fumbles, cause two and register a quarterback sack among the eight big plays for which Fred was credited. Junior Derrick Edmonds, who moved over from fullback to provide backup strength, enjoyed a good spring practice, as did sophomore Mikki Allen. They will battle it out to see who backs up White.

FREE SAFETIES

One of the tough chores facing the defense will be replacing Cory Gaines, free safety and signalcaller for the secondary. Deon Grant, considered a top prospect when he enrolled on campus a year ago, was given a shot at the difficult assignment. He came through spring practice in good style and now faces on-the-job training to master the mental aspects at which Gaines was so proficient. At 6-3, 190, Grant has the size

and wiry frame to roam the safety's far-ranging territory. He gained experience during his freshman season and came up with 10 tackles in a part-time role. Gerald Griffin has worked at safety, as well as cornerback, and is prepared to provide backup strength at either position. Veteran Tim Sewell is also in line to help as a reserve. Lack of experience at free safety is a problem that only game action can eradicate.

KICKING

Jeff Hall Returns for Senior Season after Three Straight Years as All-SEC Placekicking Specialist

The surest thing about Tennessee's kicking game, aside from the snapper and holder, is dependable Jeff Hall. He's the Vols' battle-tested placekicker, proficient enough over three previous seasons that he was named All-Southeastern Conference each time. Jeff added to his credentials last year by connecting on 16 of 22 field goal tries and hitting 47 of 49 PATs. He appears to have conquered the back problems that plagued him before the start of his junior year. The probable punter is David Leaverton, who had a chance last year but gave way going into the third game to Chris Hogue, who did a capable job the rest of the season. Leaverton, who had a brilliant high school career, hopes he can nail down the job for the next three years. Benson Scott will be the holder for Kevin Gregory's snaps, jobs Scott and Gregory performed admirably last season. Peerless Price, Cedrick Wilson, Jeremaine Copeland and Dwayne Goodrich are listed as probable kick returners.

1998 OPPONENTS

SYRACUSE

September 5 at Syracuse
HEAD COACH: *Paul Pasqualoni*
1997 RECORD: *7-4 (5-3 Big 12)*
1997 BOWL: *Fiesta, Lost to Kansas State 35-18*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 1-0*
LAST MEETING: *UT 18, SU 12 (1966 at Jacksonville, Fla.)*

FLORIDA

September 19 at Knoxville
HEAD COACH: *Steve Spurrier*
1997 RECORD: *10-2 (6-2 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *Citrus, Defeated Penn State 21-6*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 15-12-0*
LAST MEETING: *UF 33, UT 20 (1997 at Gainesville)*

HOUSTON

September 26 at Knoxville
HEAD COACH: *Kim Helton*
1997 RECORD: *3-8 (2-4 Conference USA)*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *Tied 1-1-0*
LAST MEETING: *UT 17, UH 8 (1965 at Knoxville)*

AUBURN

October 3 at Auburn
HEAD COACH: Terry Bowden
1997 RECORD: *10-3 (6-2 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *Peach, Defeated Clemson 21-17*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *AU leads 22-19-3*
LAST MEETING: *UT 30, AU 29 (1997 at Atlanta)*

GEORGIA

October 10 at Athens
HEAD COACH: *Jim Donnan*
1997 RECORD: *10-2 (6-2 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *Outback, Defeated Wisconsin 33-6*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 15-10-2*
LAST MEETING: *UT 38, UGA 13 (1997 at Knoxville)*

ALABAMA

October 24 at Knoxville
HEAD COACH: *Mike DuBose*
1997 RECORD: *4-7 (2-6 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UA leads 42-31-7*
LAST MEETING: *UT 38, UA 21 (1997 at Birmingham)*

SOUTH CAROLINA

October 31 at Columbia
HEAD COACH: *Brad Scott*
1997 RECORD: *5-6 (3-5 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 12-2-2*
LAST MEETING: *UT 22, USC 7 (1997 at Knoxville)*

ALABAMA-BIRMINGHAM

November 7 at Knoxville
HEAD COACH: *Watson Brown*
1997 RECORD: *5-6*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *First Meeting*

ARKANSAS

November 14 at Knoxville
HEAD COACH: *Houston Nutt*
1997 RECORD: *4-7 (2-6 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 8-1-0*
LAST MEETING: *UT 30, UA 22 (1997 at Little Rock)*

KENTUCKY

November 21 at Knoxville
HEAD COACH: *Hal Mumme*
1997 RECORD: *5-6-0 (2-6 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 61-23-9*
LAST MEETING: *UT 59, UK 31 (1997 at Lexington)*

VANDERBILT

November 28 at Nashville
HEAD COACH: *Woody Widenhofer*
1997 RECORD: *3-8 (0-8 SEC)*
1997 BOWL: *None*
SERIES VS. VOLS: *UT leads 60-26-5*
LAST MEETING: *UT 17, VU 10 (1997 at Knoxville)*

PROBABLE ORDER OF SUBSTITUTION

OFFENSE

TE:.....82 Eric Diogu (Jr., 6-3, 245)
98 Antron Peebles (Sr., 6-3, 247)
84 Neil Johnson (So., 6-4, 250)
96 John Finlayson (Fr., 6-4, 270)

LT: .....67 Chad Clifton (Jr., 6-6, 315) (Injured)
77 Josh Tucker (Jr., 6-4, 295)

LG: .....68 Spencer Riley (Jr., 6-3, 295) (Injured)
53 Toby Champion (So., 6-4, 295) (Injured)

C: .....54 Diron Robinson (Sr., 6-3, 295)
74 Bernard Gooden (So., 6-3, 310)

RG: .....75 Mercedes Hamilton (Sr., 6-3, 295)
69 Ethan Massa (So., 6-3, 285)

RT: .....52 Cosey Coleman (So., 6-5, 315)
72 Jarvis Reado (Sr., 6-5, 300)
71 Reggie Coleman (Fr., 6-5, 300)

WR: .....37 Peerless Price (Sr., 6-0, 183)
87 David Martin (So., 6-4, 210)
11 Bobby Graham (Fr., 6-0, 185)
9 Kevin Taylor (Fr., 5-10, 175)

WR: .....6 Jeremaine Copeland (Sr., 6-2, 200)
14 Cedrick Wilson (So., 5-10, 165)
80 Eric Parker (Fr., 6-0, 163)
88 Jermaine Kent (Fr., 6-2, 180)

QB: .....17 Tee Martin (Jr., 6-3, 215)
5 Burney Veazey (Fr., 6-2, 195)
8 Joey Mathews (Fr., 6-3, 210)

TB:.....31 Jamal Lewis (So., 6-0, 220)
25 Travis Stephens (So., 5-9, 185)
20 Travis Henry (So., 5-11, 212)
28 Dominique Stevenson (So., 6-0, 205)

FB:.....24 Shawn Bryson (Sr., 6-1, 220)
45 Will Bartholomew (Fr., 6-0, 220)
21 Phillip Crosby (Sr., 6-1, 243) (Injured)
26 Kurston Biggers (Fr., 5-7, 188)

RETURN SPECIALISTS

PR:.....6 Jeremaine Copeland (Sr., 6-2, 200)
23 Dwayne Goodrich (Jr., 6-0, 185)
80 Eric Parker (Fr., 6-0, 163)

KOR:.....14 Cedrick Wilson (So., 5-10, 165)
23 Dwayne Goodrich (Jr., 6-0, 185)
37 Peerless Price (Sr., 6-0, 183)

DEFENSE

LE:.....93 Shaun Ellis (Jr., 6-4, 260) (Injured)
99 DeAngelo Lloyd (So., 6-5, 235)
97 Joe Reid (Fr., 6-5, 220)

LT: .....58 Darwin Walker (Jr., 6-3, 281)
92 Jeff Coleman (Sr., 6-4, 242)
95 Fred Weary (Fr., 6-4, 281)
60 Matt Goodin (Sr., 6-0, 255)

RT:.....55 Ron Green (Sr., 6-1, 275)
40 Billy Ratliff (Jr., 6-3, 275) (Injured)
89 Kenny Smith (So., 6-4, 265) (Injured)

RE: .....22 Corey Terry (Sr., 6-3, 250)
94 Ed Butler (Fr., 6-3, 230)

LLB:.....42 Eric Westmoreland (So., 6-0, 210) (Injured)
48 Jerrod Hayden (So., 5-11, 215)
39 Andre James (Fr., 6-2, 210)

MLB:.....27 Al Wilson (Sr., 6-0, 226)
35 Shawn Johnson (Jr., 6-2, 217) (Injured)
41 Chris Ramseur (So., 5-10, 211)

RLB:.....46 Raynoch Thompson (Jr., 6-3, 217)
38 Roger Alexander (Jr., 6-3, 220)
44 Austin Kemp (So., 6-2, 220)

LCB:.....23 Dwayne Goodrich (Jr., 6-0, 185)
36 Maurice Fitzgerald (Fr., 5-9, 180)

RCB:.....34 Steve Johnson (Sr., 5-11, 175)
30 Andre Lott (So., 5-11, 185)
83 Tyrone Graham (So., 5-9, 160)

SS:.....2 Fred White (Jr., 5-11, 185)
29 Mikki Allen (Jr., 6-0, 175)
33 Derrick Edmonds (Jr., 5-10, 185)

FS: .....7 Deon Grant (So., 6-3, 190)
18 Gerald Griffin (Jr., 6-1, 182)
15 Tim Sewell (Sr., 5-11, 178)

PUNTERS/KICKERS

P:.....43 David Leaverton (So., 6-4, 210)
38 Bill Hurst (Jr., 5-11, 170)

PK: .....4 Jeff Hall (Sr., 6-0, 182)
11 Robert Loudermilk (Jr., 6-2, 164)

DS:.....51 Kevin Gregory (Jr., 6-4, 270)
73 Josh Campbell (Jr., 6-2, 250)

H:.....10 Benson Scott (Sr., 6-0, 193)
5 Burney Veazey (Fr., 6-2, 195)

The Last Word...

"Big John Tate!"

In my previous career, prior to coming to the UTAD, I had a number of fascinating experiences and met a number of fascinating people, including a young man from West Memphis, Ark., who would become the heavyweight champion of the world. His name was "Big John Tate."

It all came back into focus on April 12 when it was reported that Tate had died in a one-car accident on the Asheville Highway entrance to I-40 over the east side of town, about two miles from the Golden Gloves Arena where his boxing career was shaped.

The story goes like this. Back in my days in the Mayor's Office in Knoxville, when the local chief executive was named Randy Tyree, we had a basketball team called the "Mayor's Malcontents," so named because a supporter of the former Mayor once called the people who supported Tyree a "bunch of malcontents."

John's wife worked at City Hall and it only seemed logical that he would become a part of our little hoops squad. He wasn't the world's greatest basketball player, but he could, in basketball parlance, "dominate in the paint." We often squared off against the local professional wrestlers and needed every advantage we could get.

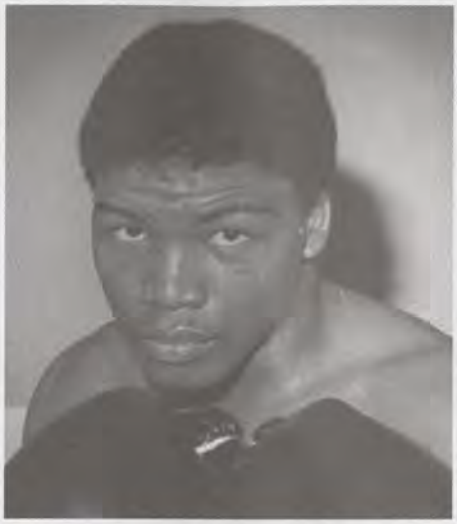
I was the coach and he always called me "teach." There was no explanation for that appellation. That's just the way it was. I didn't want to argue about it. It's now a badge of honor.

Anyway, Tate didn't play much basketball for us. He tried hard, but he was destined for bigger things. Like the world heavyweight boxing championship.

On the day in 1979 that Tennessee led an Alabama team that eventually won the national championship by 17-0 (and could have had more) in the second quarter before losing 27-17, Tate won the World Boxing Association title in Pretoria, South Africa, by defeating Gerrie Coetzee in front of a crowd of 81,000 at Loftus Versfield Stadium.

That was his highest moment. It's hard to walk down the halls of Stokely Center, right outside our offices, and not think about the moment it all got away.

The night of March 31, 1980, on the arena floor at Stokely Center, Tate dominated Mike Weaver for just over 11 rounds. All he had to do was hang on for less than two minutes and he would keep the coveted WBA crown.



"Big John" Tate was part of the "Mayor's Malcontents" back in the 1980s and went from there to the heavyweight championship of the world.

With Stokely Center in full voice, as if Joe B. Hall and the Kentucky Wildcats were in town and with over 12,000 fans screaming his name, Tate went for the kill, went for the knockout. He didn't hold anything back. He also didn't make it though the 12th round.

Weaver caught him with a devastating left hook and Tate was down, down for the count. Stokely Center was hushed as the man fans called "Big John" lay prostrate on the canvas. It was a shocking turn of events, as the arena went silent all at once. The silence was, as they say, deafening. He was down for nearly eight minutes.

It was the first time a heavyweight champion lost by knockout in the last round after being ahead on three judges' cards. I think it was also the last professional fight held in Stokely Center.

"Everywhere I went, it tormented me the way I lost to him," Tate said later. "I guess it will always torment me."

The cheering stopped for Tate that night, almost as quickly as he hit the mat. His career was never the same. Not at all.

He lost to Trevor Berbick in Montreal in June 1980. In his final professional bout in March 1988, he lost to Noel Quarles in London.

What followed was not the stuff of which dreams are made. There was a series of run-ins with the local authorities. He was in and out of jail for several years, including a stint at the Morgan County Regional Correction Facility. He is reported to have had a big-time drug habit. He was spotted by one Knoxville journalist at a local soup kitchen.

When he died, John Tate was 43 years old. His professional record was 34-3 and he is reputed to have earned over $1.7 million during his career. It is estimated that he won at least 54 amateur bouts with no more than six losses. He was the bronze medalist in the 1976 Olympics in Montreal, losing to Teofilo Stevenson. He twice reached the finals of the National Golden Gloves tournament, only to lose.

John Tate was also part of my favorite Randy Tyree story, at least the most favorite one I can tell publicly. The two once got in the ring and sparred for charity. Tyree prepared for the encounter by working out with the late Cotton Jackson, a pretty good amateur boxer himself in his day. Tate may have gone easy on the Mayor, but Cotton didn't. When Cotton died several years ago, I wrote that maybe Tyree should have worked out with Tate to get ready to box Cotton. That was how combative Cotton was.

In a 1995 interview with the *Knoxville News-Sentinel,* John Tate very likely summed up the mistakes of his life and, in the process, wrote his own eulogy: *"I'm a big man, 6-5, and I weigh a lot. If drugs can do that much damage to me and beat me up that bad, imagine what they can do to the kids. Drugs are out. If you do the drugs, you're going to one of three places: the nuthouse, the graveyard or the state penitentiary."*

— Tom Mattingly, aka "Teach"

CLASSIC ART FROM RUSSIA

The Matryoshka doll has depicted Russian Cultural Icons for hundreds of years. Now it is available depicting one of our own – **The Tennessee Volunteers.**

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